

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the facilitation, analysis, and implementation of high-speed passenger rail in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Title 5, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 92 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 92. HIGH-SPEED RAIL

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 92.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "High-speed rail" means passenger rail service capable of operating at speeds greater than 200 miles per hour.

(2) "High-speed rail corporation" means the nonprofit corporation with which the institute contracts under Section 92.051.

(3) "Institute" means the Texas Transportation Institute.

[Sections 92.002-92.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. HIGH-SPEED RAIL FACILITATION, ANALYSIS, AND

IMPLEMENTATION

Sec. 92.051. CONTRACT FOR FACILITATION, ANALYSIS, AND IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The institute shall contract with a nonprofit corporation consisting of local transportation and elected officials organized to implement high-speed rail in this state, to negotiate on behalf of this state, and to facilitate, analyze, and

1 implement the development of high-speed rail.

2 (b) The high-speed rail corporation may:

3 (1) solicit federal and state funding to be allocated
4 to the institute for the purposes of this subchapter;

5 (2) coordinate with federal planners and
6 representatives from adjacent states for the interconnectivity of
7 high-speed rail systems in this state with systems developed in
8 federally designated high-speed rail corridors in other states;

9 (3) represent and negotiate on behalf of this state
10 for the interconnectivity of high-speed rail with existing and
11 planned transportation systems, including airports, seaports,
12 transit systems, commuter rail systems, and highways; and

13 (4) coordinate with federal transportation planners
14 and officials at the United States Department of Defense or its
15 successor agency regarding issues related to the provision of
16 connectivity to military installations in this state.

17 Sec. 92.052. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS. The high-speed rail
18 system developed under this subchapter must:

19 (1) provide high-speed rail connectivity to this
20 state's four largest airports;

21 (2) enhance connectivity for and ease of passenger
22 transport from military installations located in this state; and

23 (3) be developed in collaboration with high-speed rail
24 projects in other areas of the United States to ensure
25 interconnectivity with other federally designated high-speed rail
26 corridors.

27 Sec. 92.053. REPORTS. The high-speed rail corporation shall

1 annually submit a report regarding its activities under this
2 subchapter to:

3 (1) the governor;

4 (2) the lieutenant governor;

5 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and

6 (4) the standing committee in the senate and the house
7 of representatives that has primary jurisdiction over rail
8 transportation issues.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.